

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 324

By Weaver

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of David Matthew Carr of Watervale.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of David Matthew Carr; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Carr was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, he served with acumen and alacrity as the Vocational Agriculture Instructor at Gordonsville High School, in which position he earned the respect of his peers and his students alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, the son of Judy Bennett McMillen and Julian Frank Carr, David Carr was born on September 17, 1960, in Yamaguchi, Japan, where his father was serving as a missionary for the Missionary Baptist churches at the time; and

WHEREAS, a 1978 graduate of Smith County High School, Mr. Carr went on to graduate from Tennessee Technological University with Bachelor of Science degrees in Agriculture Education and Agribusiness Economics; and

WHEREAS, he continued his studies at Tennessee Technological University, earning a Master of Arts degree in Curriculum and Instruction and then completed further graduate studies in Agricultural Economics at Texas A&M University; and

WHEREAS, considered an expert in his field, David Carr had several of his articles published by the Department of Education, *Ag-Ed* Magazine, and other independent agricultural newspapers; and

WHEREAS, putting his vast agricultural knowledge and expertise to honorable use, he taught Vocational Agriculture at Gordonsville High School for more than sixteen years, winning much acclaim in his community and among his students; and

WHEREAS, deeply involved with the Gordonsville Chapter of the Future Farmers of America (FFA), David Carr led his students to great success at FFA competitions, as evidenced by the Chapter's extraordinary record of achievement in both state and national events; and

WHEREAS, among the awards garnered by his students are "Middle Tennessee Grand Chapter" Awards from 1996 and 2000, and a "Tennessee Outstanding Chapter of the Year" Award from 2003; and

WHEREAS, these distinguished awards are just three of countless awards Mr. Carr and his students won at the district, regional, state, and national levels; the Gordonsville chapter of FFA has been awarded more than fifteen first place awards in state competitions, won more than sixty awards in district and middle Tennessee events, and competed in fifteen national events; and

WHEREAS, aside from the many accolades his students earned under his astute guidance, David Carr received several awards for his work in the field of agricultural education; he was selected in 1996 as "Outstanding New Vocational Teacher of the Year" by the Tennessee Vocational Association, and in 1997 the State of Tennessee Department of Education awarded him the "System Level Teacher of the Year"; and

WHEREAS, he was recognized by Mayor Larry Bradford and the Town of Gordonsville on January 30, 2004, for his continuing contributions and achievements in promoting education, development, and inspiration to the students and his fellow educators at Gordonsville High School; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his esteemed work in the classroom, Mr. Carr was a licensed real estate agent who worked part time as a Realtor for Heartland Realty; and

WHEREAS, David Carr was saved and baptized into the full fellowship of the Old Bottom Missionary Baptist Church in Macon County, where his father served as Pastor for eleven years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Carr will be sorely missed by his parents; his step-father, Bobby McMillen; and his three sisters and their husbands, Becky and Dr. Rick Rutherford, Jane and Dr. Alan Roundtree, and Naomi and Brian Bishop; and

WHEREAS, David Carr leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of David Matthew Carr, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of David Matthew Carr.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.